

Guelph Campus Ministry

A ministry of the Christian Reformed Church at the University of Guelph



Guelph Campus Ministry

Our Mission:

To be a community where all who are curious about life and God wrestle with scripture and are challenged to root their identity in Christ.

GCM Intern Update

By Heather Metzloff, GCM Intern 2020 - 2021

Hi everyone! My name is Heather, and I am one of this year's GCM interns. There have been many struggles in this past year for all of us; switching to virtual learning, working from home, and missing in person family and friend gatherings has been difficult for everyone. This has taught so many of us to be resilient and to appreciate the little things in life (not that we always want to); this year has had so many positive experiences that I never expected to gain, this internship being one of them.

This year, as an intern team we explored six new spiritual practices and invited our community to engage in them as well. This was an amazing learning experience for us all; we were able to listen to God together through these and to learn from each other's experiences previously with these disciplines. We also read through two books together (one each semester), this gave us the opportunity to discuss what we believe, what we learned from the book, and how we were going to use this to better follow Jesus.



Although most of this internship was performed virtually, it provided me with a sense of community; as a team we met every week, along with having the opportunity to join other small groups that were held virtually throughout the year. During our time we were able to share what was on our minds as well as plan ways to support our community to the best of our abilities. I mostly worked 'behind the scenes' and helped with things such as assembling and delivering care packages and helping brainstorm ideas to involve students in GCM activities.

In my time as a GCM intern, I feel that I grew so much as a student, a follower of Christ, and a leader. I was pushed to think outside the box and challenged to explore faith and life through a different lens. I am so thankful for this experience and those who supported me through this. Thank you!

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Pandemic Partnership Possibilities

By Sara DeMoor, Campus Minister

As I look back over the past semester, one theme that emerges from our campus ministry is that of the gift of partnerships and connections—with local churches, campus ministries, and with the university and local community. Though many of these connections existed before the Covid-19 pandemic changed the ways we could do ministry, the pandemic restrictions actually enabled and encouraged us to partner with others in new and intentional ways! Through these connections, we have experienced the ways that God can work through our circumstances – even very challenging circumstances – for the good of those who love him (Romans 8:28).

Local churches and ministries

- The Clothing Closet** is a ministry of New Life CRC in Guelph that gives quality used clothing for free to those who have need. They are in need of donations of young adult clothing in particular, so GCM is partnering with them to do a clothing drive! Students are cleaning out their closets and porch-dropping clothing donations that will bless the Clothing Closet and our local community.
- Office Space at Water Street Church:** Due to Covid-19 restrictions, I have not been permitted to use our on-campus office space all year. I am so grateful to our friends at Water Street Church, who offered us an affordable office space in their Ministry Centre, and the use of the beautiful forested yard out front for safely distanced outdoor gatherings.



Contact Us



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Pandemic Partnership Possibilities (continued)

By Sara DeMoor, Campus Minister

- **Holy Week:** Rather than creating our own Holy Week and Easter events, GCM partnered with and shared events from local churches and ministries. We invited students to join me on Maundy Thursday at New Life CRC's outdoor Stations in the Street, a powerful series of artworks based on Scripture and the traditional Stations of the Cross.



- **Ecumenical Campus Ministry (ECM):** We co-hosted virtual St. Patrick's Day fun-and-games and our year-end Zoom party with our friends from ECM, and we are grateful for the opportunities to laugh, catch up, and share our gratitude to God for God's faithfulness in the midst of the upheaval of this year.



Campus Ministries

- **Spiritual Friendship group:** Joining CRC campus ministers and students from Western University, Waterloo, Laurier, and Redeemer, three GCMers have met every two weeks throughout this semester to read a few books and discuss friendship from a distinctly Christian perspective. Since we are all meeting on Zoom anyway, this kind of collaboration was an exciting way to meet new friends and practice discipleship across geographic distances!

University of Guelph

- **House Calls:** The University of Guelph runs a House Calls program every year, in which all staff and faculty are invited to initiate 15-minute conversations with first-year students. Historically this happened in the residences, so this year it happened virtually—which enabled me to participate for the first time. It was a wonderful experience of blessing the university community through meaningful conversations and connections with first-year students!

Support Guelph Campus Ministry

Financial Contributions are what makes this ministry happen. GCM is grateful for those whose gifts make our ministry possible with University of Guelph students. Donations can be made online at www.canadahelps.org. You may also send a cheque to: Guelph Campus Ministry Treasurer, c/o Water Street Church, 287 Water St, Guelph, ON N1G 1B6.

